

Lt. Col. E. Conrad Sittler, Jr.  
May 24, 1941 – September 11, 2012

### Champion of Freedom

Conrad was born in Cincinnati, Ohio on May 24, 1941. His parents were Edwin Conrad Sittler, Sr. and Josephine Lampert Sittler. Josephine later married Robert Steman, who Conrad considered a second father. Conrad attended Cincinnati public schools and graduated from Walnut Hills High School, the #1 high school in Ohio. He graduated from Wabash College in Crawfordsville, Indiana with a degree in Mechanical Engineering.

Conrad entered the Army on January 7, 1965 as a Private, Combat Engineer and Special Forces Engineer Candidate. His decorations and medals as Private include Sharpshooter (Rifle M\_14), National Defense Service Medal, Parachute Badge, and Good Conduct Medal (1st Award). He attended Special Forces Officer Candidate School from May – October 1966, where he started learning Vietnamese and graduated first in his class. On October 24, 1966 Conrad was commissioned as an officer of the Special Forces in the U.S. Army as 2d Lieutenant. The Special Forces Green Berets are the Army's most specialized experts in unconventional warfare. Conrad continued Special Forces training, including US Army Artillery and Missile School; rising through the ranks and on June 16, 1969 was appointed Lieutenant Colonel in the Special Forces of the US Army. In his 2 tours of duty as an officer in Vietnam, from October 1966 – January 1970 his decorations and medals include: Combat Infantryman Badge, Vietnam Service Medal, Vietnamese Jump Wings, Army Airborne, Overseas Service Bar for service in combat zone, Republic of Vietnam Campaign Medal, multiple Purple Hearts for gallantry and being wounded, captured and escaping from the enemy, Gallantry Cross awarded by the government of South Vietnam in recognition of deeds of valor and heroic conduct while in combat, and was awarded the third highest award given by the United States, the Silver Star Medal for gallantry in action against an enemy of the United States.

Conrad left the army in 1970, but continued to serve as a Lieutenant Colonel in the Army Reserves. He moved to Chicago and held several positions in Marketing and Operations before starting his own consulting business in 1979, he was CEO and President of Conrad Sittler and Co. He met Kathy in 1978 while riding bikes in Chicago along the lakeside of Lake Michigan and they were married on September 20, 1980 at the St. Chrysostom's Episcopal Church in Chicago, with a reception at the Chicago Yacht Club. Conrad and Kathy raced and sailed their Tartan 10 sailboat on Lake Michigan and were members of the Chicago Yacht Club. From 1980 – 1986 Conrad and Kathy lived in Chicago on the near north side in a beautiful gray stone six-flat apartment building that they owned. Conrad also started a second business, Marine Artworks and designed and produced the Olympic poster for the sailing events at the 1984 Los Angeles Olympics.

In 1986, Conrad and Kathy moved to Florida and bought their beloved Lewis Cove house, bringing their sailboat with them. Conrad moved his consulting business to Florida and worked as a consultant and commercial property manager in Delray Beach. He served on the Delray Beach Site Plan Review and Appearance Board for 4 years and was given an award for his service by the city of Delray Beach. On August 28, 1988 Conrad and Kathy were blessed with the birth of their daughter, Dana. From the first day, Conrad adored her and called her Doodlebug, she was the light of his life. He devoted much of his life to supporting and encouraging her, always using the words "Dana can do it." Conrad, Kathy and Dana became members at Advent Lutheran Church. Conrad volunteered with the school board at Advent Lutheran School while Dana attended school there from pre-kindergarten through 5th grade. Dana pursued ballet and attended the Middle School of the Arts and Alexander W. Dreyfoos School of the Arts. Conrad volunteered his time to both of their school boards and parent committees, working very closely with the Dance departments and the Principal's office.

Conrad found great joy in supporting Dana in her love of dance. At every performance starting from her very first recital at Advent at the age of three, he sat in the front row center and cheered her on with wondrous pride. When Dana joined Boca Ballet Theatre, the non-profit civic ballet company of Boca Raton, in 1994, Conrad spent countless hours volunteering. He helped to build the new studio space, built sets, worked backstage, and to the delight of his daughter and the audience, even graced the stage with his presence. He performed with Dana in Romeo and Juliet, Giselle, Play Ball and the Nutcracker. His favorite and starring role of the stage was in the Nutcracker as 'Mother Ginger'.

When Dana moved to California to attend Stanford University, he and Kathy split their time between Florida and California, always present at Dana's Cardinal Ballet performances in his seat at the front and center. They spent summers and semester breaks climbing and hiking the mountains of Yosemite and down the coast of California together. Despite his many personal achievements and awards throughout his life, one of Conrad's proudest moments was seeing Dana graduate from Stanford.

Conrad loved his God, his country, his wife and his daughter and he believed very strongly in all of them. He is survived by Kathy, his wife of 32 years and his and daughter Dana Sittler.

Conrad was a Champion of Freedom, and a wonderful father and husband.